4701 WILLARD AVENUE, CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND 20015

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PROGRAM

Communique

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Washington, DC

SUBJECT

Interview with Admiral Stansfield Turner

ADMIRAL STANSFIELD TURNER: Let's not kid ourselves. All of our diplomacy, all of our economic power and pressure, all of our military threat is here to influence other countries, to make sure they don't do things inimical to us. Covert political action is another tool in that quiver of arrows.

ANNOUNCER: Admiral Stansfield Turner, the tenth man to hold the post of Director of the Central Intelligence Agency since its creation in 1947. When he took the job three years ago, the CIA had suffered intense congressional and public criticism. Admiral Turner has directed the rehabilitation of the agency, but problems and critics persist.

On this edition of Communique, Admiral Turner is interviewed by NPR's Nina Totenberg and Peter Osnos of The Washington Post.

PETER OSNOS: Admiral, in going over your tenure at the Central Intelligence Agency, I was struck by the repeated references to an agency in turmoil and change, resignations, realignments.

What are the key differences between the CIA now and the way it was when you arrived?

ADMIRAL TURNER: The morale is really on the upgrade today, Peter. When I arrived, the agency was still in something of a state of shock from all the years of criticism — the Church Committee, the Rockefeller Commission, the other quite proper investigations, but ones that led to excessive criticism, in my opinion, in the media of the United States, and, naturally, discouraged the members of the CIA, who were really very patriotic